



Beyond the Grid

Increasing Access through Off-Grid & Small-Scale Energy Solutions

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\$1
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in off-grid and
small-scale energy
solutions.

About 600 million people live without electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing that Power Africa cannot achieve energy access goals through the use of large grid extension projects alone, the U.S. Government has recently launched a new sub-initiative focused exclusively on unlocking investment and growth for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions on the African continent.

Known as “Beyond the Grid”, this new framework leverages Power Africa’s innovative transaction-focused model to galvanize collaboration, engage in critical actions to accelerate transactions, and drive systemic reforms to facilitate future investment specifically relating to off-grid and small-scale energy solutions. Developed in close collaboration with investors, practitioners, and donors, Beyond the Grid strives to create an effective enabling environment, as well as increase access to finance and technical assistance in order to address some of the recurring constraints in the small scale-energy space.

Beyond the Grid has partnered with over 40 investors and practitioners that have committed to invest over \$1 billion into off-grid and small-scale solutions to this underserved market over a five-year period. These private sector commitments will be significant in helping Power Africa meet one of its objectives to improve access through 60 million new connections for households and businesses.









Mobilizing Finance

Sustainable, private sector-led business models for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions are beginning to succeed in the marketplace — bolstered by decreasing costs of renewable energy generation, new technologies, innovative business models, and a growing cohort of entrepreneurs meeting the demand of sub-Saharan Africa’s underserved populations. Building on this momentum, Beyond the Grid will utilize the full suite of tools and resources of the 12 U.S. Government agencies which work together as part of the Power Africa team to mobilize finance to small-scale energy projects.

Enabling Environment

Growth of the small-scale energy sector hinges on the public sector providing transparent regulatory and policy regimes that provide clear, predictable rules for project development, investment and operation. However, existing policies and regulatory frameworks are not always primed to support new and emerging business models enabled by rapidly transforming energy technologies. In order to catalyze the private sector’s significant resources it can offer, Beyond the Grid will support activities that create an enabling environment for development and investment in this space.

The Beyond the Grid Toolbox

	Tools	BTG-Supported Mechanisms
	Financing	<p>EXIM Finance, Guarantees, and Insurance</p> <p>OPIC and USTDA's Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative</p> <p>OPIC Loans, Guarantees, and Insurance</p> <p>Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)</p> <p>USADF, USAID & GE - Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge</p> <p>USAID Development Credit Authority</p> <p>USAID Development Innovation Ventures</p> <p>USAID Powering Agriculture Grant Competition</p>
	Technical Assistance	<p>Global LEAP</p> <p>Clean Energy Solutions Center</p> <p>DoE Quality Assurance Framework for Mini-Grids</p> <p>USAID's Power Africa Transactions and Reform Program</p>
	Capacity Building for Rural Energy Agencies	<p>Clean Energy Solutions Center</p> <p>Transaction Advisors</p>
	Partnerships	<p>Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN)</p> <p>Power Africa Global Development Alliance (GDA)</p>
	Policy Dialogue	<p>Millennium Challenge Corporation</p> <p>U.S. Agency for International Development</p> <p>U.S. Department of Treasury</p> <p>U.S. Department of State</p>
	Market Information for Governments and Businesses	<p>Climatescope</p> <p>U.S. Trade and Development Agency</p>
	Convening	<p>Investor Forums</p> <p>Stakeholder Meetings</p>

Power Africa represents a whole of U.S. Government, transaction-based development approach to increase access to power throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa is working with African governments, the private sector, and other partners such as the World Bank, and African Development Bank—to add more than 30,000 MW of cleaner, more efficient electricity generation and to bring 60 million new household and business connections to sub-Saharan Africa.

For more information on Power Africa's Beyond the Grid, visit:

www.usaid.gov/powerafrica

